

TRIBUTE TO MGM BRAKES ON ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MGM Brakes, headquartered in Charlotte, NC, on its 50th anniversary.

MGM Brakes is a division of Indian Head Industries, Inc., also headquartered in Charlotte, NC, and maintains manufacturing facilities in Cloverdale, CA and Murphy, NC.

MGM Brakes was founded in 1956 and is a leading U.S. manufacturer of spring parking brakes and actuators for vehicles with air brakes. Fifty years ago the company's founders (Miller, Gummer and Meyers) invented the spring brake actuator to prevent air braking failures in heavy, over-the-road vehicles that usually resulted in runaway vehicles. MGM Brakes is now a leading world-wide supplier to the commercial vehicle industry and its actuator products have become standard equipment on more than 125 makes of commercial vehicles currently manufactured in over 40 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to MGM Brakes and its employees for 50 years of pioneering technology and innovative products that have helped increase the safety of commercial vehicles, transit buses and school buses across the states and around the country.

HONORING JEANETTE L. STERNER
OF HOLLY LAKE RANCH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of COL Jeanette L. Sterner of Holly Lake Ranch in Wood County, Texas. Colonel Sterner has spent a lifetime in service to her country in the United States military and in the process has earned a multitude of honors including: the Meritorious Service Medal; an Army Commendation Medal; an Army Achievement Medal; an Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; a National Defense Service Medal; a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; an Armed Forces Reserve Medal; an Army Service Ribbon; and a Sharpshooter Badge.

During her years of service to the United States, she also earned five State awards: the Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal; the Iowa Achievement Medal; the Iowa Commendation Medal; the State of Texas Medal of Merit; and the Texas Adjutant General Individual Award.

Jeanette's service to her country does not end with her military heroism. She has also served her local community in a variety of ways including youth involvement. She has worked as a school psychologist for Sacred Heart Catholic School, for Mount Saint Mary's High School, for Christ the King School, and has even managed to find time to serve as a youth director for her church.

She has earned numerous civilian awards and memberships for her efforts, including

Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Biographee for the Directory of Distinguished Americans, and Personalities of the South.

Jeanette currently serves as president of the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas, working diligently to obtain single residence housing for homeless veterans. In addition, she serves as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Greater Hawkins Veterans Association, maintaining a memorial in honor of local veterans.

Without a doubt, Jeanette's service to her community is extensive, and on behalf of the people living in the 5th District of Texas, I applaud her for her commitment to both her community and her country.

THANKING MR. WILLIAM CHAMP
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, we rise to thank Mr. William Champ for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

William Champ has been an employee of the Furniture Division, Cabinet Shop of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House for 30 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Bill is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to the institution. His list of accomplishments is far too lengthy to include in this tribute, but includes the lecterns in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol Building that every Member of Congress uses during each session, a key fixture seen by millions of people all over the world. Bill was a key member of the team that designed and constructed the lecterns. He was also instrumental in the renovation of the audio/video upgrade of the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Bill's retirement is bittersweet; the House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and above and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives as we wish him many wonderful years of happy retirement.

GOODBYE TO COLLEAGUES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, as our colleague, the Honorable gentleman from New York, SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, prepares to retire from the Congress, I want to join the entire New York delegation in wishing SHERRY a fond farewell and in commending him for a job very well done.

SHERRY BOEHLERT has served the people of the 24th Congressional District, which includes all or parts of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Oneida, Ontario, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins, and Seneca counties, for 12 consecutive terms. He has been my congressional neighbor to the west for as long as I have been in Congress. We have had the opportunity to work together on many issues, such as the Tech Valley initiative in upstate New York, the FAIR Alliance for transportation funding, and, of course, rooting on our beloved New York Yankees.

With expertise and leadership in so many different fields, from the environment and the sciences, to transportation and homeland security, SHERRY has not only capably served the people of his district, but also every citizen of New York and the United States.

SHERRY has earned the opportunity to spend more time with his wife, Marianne, their four grown children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call SHERRY BOEHLERT a respected colleague and a dear friend. His presence and strong voice will be missed during the coming debates. There is no doubt, however, that his proud legacy of committed public service and bipartisan achievement, will live on for generations.

PRAISING THE GOALS OF THE 2006
NATIONAL RAIL SYMPOSIUM

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on November 15, 2006, I had the opportunity to address the 2006 National Rail Symposium, presented by Citizens for Rail Safety, Inc. at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Attended by rail worker union representatives, rail industry experts, transportation scholars, and local and Federal political leaders, the symposium served to further highlight the glaring gaps in America's rail security and specifically, bring attention to the lack of basic emergency and antiterrorism training for our Nation's rail workers.

Notably, the symposium marked the release of a key rail security study prepared by the National Labor College (NLC) entitled: "Training in Hazmat and Rail Security: Current Status and Future Needs of Rail Workers and Community Members." As noted by the NLC, our Nation's rail workers currently lack basic and necessary emergency prevention and response training, particularly with respect to Hazmat incidents, and must work in rail cars and on rail tracks, yards, and basic infrastructure that are poorly secured.

The NLC's study comes on the heels of a 2005 rail worker safety report prepared by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Rail Security Conference, entitled "High Alert: Workers Warn of Security Gaps on Nation's Railroads." Based on over 4,000 surveys completed by members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, the report reveals that 84 percent of the rail workers surveyed indicated that they had not received any or additional terrorism prevention and response training within the last year and that 64 percent indicated that

they had not been trained on their role in their railroad's Emergency Action or Emergency Response Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with these reports, as well as the goals of the National Rail Symposium, given the importance of providing our rail workers with adequate emergency, anti-terrorism, and security training. For this reason, I have also urged my colleagues to adopt H.R. 4372, the Rail Worker Emergency Training Act, which I have introduced in the 109th Congress. This bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop comprehensive rail worker training guidelines that address several key areas, including critical infrastructure and equipment security inspection, hazardous material storage, transport, and monitoring, and evacuation procedures. In addition, the bill would require rail carriers to develop a rail worker training program based on the Secretary's guidelines and to train all of their workers within 1 year.

In closing, I would like to commend Citizens for Rail Safety, Inc. and the National Labor College for their efforts to heighten security and preparedness on our Nation's railways.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN WHITEFIELD

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justin Whitefield, successful attorney, dedicated father, tremendous leader, and tireless advocate for agricultural development throughout Oklahoma and the Nation.

A native of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, Justin Whitefield attended Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in Business, excelling in his studies and regularly recognized for his campus-wide leadership. Later attending the University of Oklahoma Law School, Justin Whitefield earned his Jurist Doctorate, repeating his academic excellence and class leadership.

Throughout his career Justin Whitefield was a forward thinking individual, helping better the community through his dedication to helping others and his commitment to youth and agriculture. Examples of his initiatives and contributions are the growth of scholarship programs through the Oklahoma Youth Expo to young people, the development and implementation of collegiate programs such as the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter program, and the Oklahoma Youth Expo College 101 and the Academic All State Scholarship Program. While his primary focus was to bring recognition to others by honoring individuals through the Oklahoma Youth Expo Exhibitor Hall of Fame, he was also progressive in his ideas for events such as the Western Art Exhibition, the Master Showmanship Contest and the Cattle Fitting Contest.

In his most recent assignment as Executive Director of Oklahoma Youth Expo, Justin Whitefield's accomplishments were far-reaching. Prior to joining Oklahoma Youth Expo, he served as General Counsel for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, served as an Attorney specializing in Government Relations for Derryberry, Quigley, Solomon and Naifeh Law Firm and served as President and Chief Lobbyist for Capital Resource Group.

As a result of an airplane accident, Justin Whitefield lost his life on November 4, 2006. He was not only a leader in Oklahoma, but he was my friend. We worked together during my service in the Oklahoma Legislature. I always found him to be a man of character, faith, and honor. We will truly miss him.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his contributions to others, specifically the young people of Oklahoma.

USS "OKLAHOMA"

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the groundbreaking of a memorial to the USS *Oklahoma*, which sank 65 years ago today in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Commissioned in 1916, the 583-foot USS *Oklahoma* escorted President Woodrow Wilson to and from France at the conclusion of World War I. She served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets through the 1920s and 1930s, and when the Spanish Civil War erupted in 1936, she steamed to Bilbao to ferry American citizens to safety in Gibraltar and French ports. One year and a day before the Japanese attack, the *Oklahoma* was assigned to Pearl Harbor.

The casualties aboard the USS *Oklahoma* represent the second-largest loss of life aboard any Pearl Harbor ship. Yet neither memorial nor marker exists to commemorate her and her crew. With today's groundbreaking at Pearl Harbor, we mark a significant step toward the creation of a lasting memorial to honor the 429 sailors, officers and Marines who perished on the "Okie," many of whom until 2002 rested in unmarked mass graves.

I am proud to have worked with Congressman COLE and the other members of the Armed Services Committee to pass language in the 2005 Defense Authorization Act providing a site for the memorial. But the real credit for making this project a reality goes to the *Oklahoma's* remaining survivors, the people of the State of *Oklahoma* and the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Committee, which is raising private funds for the memorial.

I hope that this long-overdue tribute provides some comfort to the *Oklahoma's* survivors and their families, knowing that their sacrifices that day will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise to add my voice in tribute to retiring Chairman MIKE OXLEY.

Today is a sad day for me. Though I haven't known him nearly as long as my fellow colleagues from Ohio, I, too, will miss our Coach.

I use that word not just as a tribute to his years of Congressional baseball and basket-

ball dominance. I call Chairman OXLEY my Coach because that is what he has been to so many of us. Chairman OXLEY has been a model of public service since graduating from the Ohio State University School of Law in 1969. Coach OXLEY has been legislating for over 30 years and he has always been kind enough to help others learn the ropes. He has taken me and literally hundreds like me by the hand and guided us through the legislative process.

A kindness that I will never be able to repay.

Coach OXLEY, we will miss you in the halls of this great institution. I will miss your counsel and will be forever disappointed that you retired before the long hotly debated issue over which Member from Ohio has the lowest handicap was completely resolved. However, I trust that future coaching sessions will be available by phone.

Congratulations, Mr. Chairman, to you and your family.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SGT. FIRST CLASS WILLIAM R. BROWN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. November 6, 2006, Army Sgt. First Class William R. Brown (1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group) was killed in the line of duty when a roadside improvised bomb exploded near his Humvee vehicle in Sperwan-Gar, Afghanistan, which is part of the Panjwayi District of Kandahar. He was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brown enlisted in the Army in June 1994, 2 weeks after graduating high school.

Sgt. Brown's family and friends remember him as a person with integrity and a strong desire to service his country through a career in the military. He is also remembered for his devotion to his wife, Audra, and two children.

A native of White Settlement, Texas, Sgt. Brown graduated from Brewer High School and began Army basic training 2 weeks later at Fort Benning, Georgia. His first assignment was with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. With that unit, he rose to the rank of squad leader and operations sergeant. After serving 7 years with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Sgt. Brown was transferred to Dallas, Texas, where he was an Army recruiter for 2 years.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Sgt. Brown decided to join the Army's elite Special Forces. In 2004, he completed the rigorous Special Forces Qualification Course and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Air Borne) which is based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After becoming a Special Forces member, he served with great distinction and valor one tour of duty in Iraq and was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was killed. Sgt. Brown volunteered for both tours of duty in Afghanistan.

During his career, Sgt. Brown earned the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Meritorious Service